

# We say no war': Protesters across the world rally against military strike on Syria

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*A Syrian girl (2nd L) and an Iranian girl hold signs outside the Rayburn House office building across from the US Capitol in Washington during a demonstration against US intervention in Syria on September 7, 2013. (AFP Photo/Nicholas Kamm)*

Protests were held across the globe on Saturday to speak out against a US-led strike on Syria, as world leaders ask Washington to wait for the results of a UN report before taking military action.

Around 200 people gathered outside the White House on Saturday to voice their opposition against a military strike on Syria and demand that Congress votes “no” on the issue.

Demonstrators chanted, *"They say more war; we say no war"* and carried signs stating that war on Syria would be *"Built on a Lie."*

*"There is a grass-roots uprising against the Democrats and the Republicans,"* founder of the anti-war group Code Pink, Medea Benjamin, told AP. *"We do not want another war,"* she said, pointing to a broad anti-war feeling in the US.

Activists also hit the streets of New York, carrying signs which read, *"No more wars for corporate profit"* and *"Cut the Pentagon, not food stamps."*

## New York



Demonstrators march after a rally on Times Square September 7, 2013 in New York City. (Ramin Talaie/Getty Images/AFP)

Another 150 people gathered in Indianapolis. Other protests were reported across Louisiana and Michigan.

In Canada, a rally was held across the street from the US consulate in Toronto. People gathered to demonstrate against Washington's recent efforts to garner support for a military strike.

The organizer of the protest, Sid Lacombe, said that people should not believe US claims that Assad's government launched the August 21 chemical attack in a Damascus suburb.

*"We are not going to support the United States government as it launches yet another incredibly brutal, immoral and illegal war based on lies,"* Lacombe told The Canadian Press.



Demonstrations were also held in front of the US embassy in Ottawa, Canada.



Lebanese supporters of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (portrait-L) flash the sign for victory as they wave their national flag, during a demonstration near the American embassy, east of Beirut against a possible US military strike on Syria on September 6, 2013. (AFP Photo)

Three-hundred people rallied outside the US embassy in the Lebanese capital of Beirut, where protests entered their second day.

Activists also gathered in the Philippines and Pakistan to voice their opposition to a US-led strike on Syria.

Pope Francis held a five-hour prayer vigil in Vatican City for peace in Syria, asking world leaders to remove their nations from a “*spiral of sorrow and death.*” He stressed that “*violence and war lead only to death.*”



*Pope Francis attends a prayer calling for peace in Syria, in Saint Peter's square at the Vatican September 7, 2013. (Reuters/Tony Gentile)*

## **Syrian opposition speaks out against military strike**

Rebel groups have voiced their opposition against a possible US-led strike on Syria, arguing that it would only serve American interests.

The Syrian Islamic Front posted a message on its Facebook page cautioning its followers against supporting a strike. The group stated that military intervention would only benefit Washington - not Syrians who are seeking to topple Assad.

Another group condemned the idea of a strike in a YouTube video, saying that “*we reject Western military intervention in Syria and consider it a new aggression against Muslims.*”

The statements go against the mainstream thinking of the Free Syrian Army, underlining the rift within the Syrian opposition.



People march from the White House to the US Capitol in Washington against US intervention in Syria on September 7, 2013. (AFP Photo/Nicholas Kamm)

Meanwhile, US President Barack Obama has been speaking to world leaders in an attempt to garner support for a military strike. He has also been seeking congressional approval.

The US says the Syrian government unleashed a gas attack on a Damascus suburb last month, killing over 1,400 civilians. The White House, which previously designated chemical warfare as a “red line,” is calling for “limited” action against the Assad regime – likely a series of air strikes.

The US Senate Intelligence Committee [released](#) on Saturday a compilation of 13 videos presented to the committee as proof of the alleged chemical attack.

In its latest remarks, the EU said the Syrian government was the likely perpetrator of the Damascus chemical attack, but that it will not be rushed into any military action before an official UN report is released.

Over the past fortnight, France and the UK have led calls for military response. Italy and Spain have assumed a waiting position, while Germany has proceeded with caution.





Demonstrators march after a rally on Times Square September 7, 2013 in New York City.  
(Ramin Talaie/Getty Images/AFP)



*Activists burn a poster depicting former U.S President George Bush disguised as current U.S President Barack Obama during a protest against potential U.S. strikes on Syria, near the U.S. embassy in Awkar, north of Beirut, September 7, 2013. (Reuters/Hasan Shaaban)*

By: rt.com

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